

DPD 3784-61

19 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Our Famous B-17

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1. [] Lockheed's Project Officer for almost everything except IDEALIST and OXCART, called me 16 June to inquire whether or not the requirement expressed to him orally by [] last week regarding certain additional possible modification to the B-17 was firm. I told him that I was not aware of any additional work to be done on this airplane, and he added the oft-quoted phrase, "Kelly Johnson is upset because he just finished discussing the B-17 with you, and no additional tasks appeared on the horizon at the time of that talk."

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2. I asked [] what the new requirements were, and he said that they had been asked to quote costs on the following items:

a. Installation of the heating system. [] described this as "expensive" requiring interior ducting, the building of exhaust muffs, and the probably removal of both wings to check existing heating installation. 25X1

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b. [] said that he was also asked for cost info on the installation of C-54 seats in the aircraft and the installation of a head.

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3. I told [] that this whole thing was news to me, but I would check into it and see if we could not either confirm or cancel this requirement by TWX. I asked [] for a ballpark figure on what he thought this would cost, and he mentioned [] as being in his opinion not out of the region of probability. However, he said that he would firm this up accurately if we were serious about wanting this information.

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4. Right at the moment they are modifying the navigation lights to conform with FAA standards and are well into the engineering study phase of the existing structural mods. It turns out that they have not moved the airplane from the classified area, and as a result, [] asked that we hold up on the hull insurance inspection of the aircraft until the end of this week when Lockheed would advise us that the airplane would be out of the restricted area. The reason it is still in that area is that they are still working on it structurally to make the navigation light modifications.

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5. In defense of [] I am sure he did not think this requirement up himself. Also as near as I can gather from talking to [] all he did was ask for a cost quote which has prompted the ever-volatile Kelly to bore his usual hole in the ceiling over what he regards as our uncoordinated way of doing business. Since he runs a one-man show in his division, he cannot understand why everyone else does not do the same!

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P. S. We are pretty close to being broke on the B-17 this Fiscal Year, and our total dollar item for next is a scant []

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Assistant Chief
DPD-DD/P

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